# Princess Anne Middle School

**2016-2017 Class Expectations**

**6th Grade Science**

**Mrs. Kimberly Piper**

**Email-** [Kimberly.piper@vbschools.com](mailto:Kimberly.piper@vbschools.com)

**Teacher Webpage-** <http://pams-piper.wikispaces.com>

**Google Classrooms-** Class code is located on the wikispace

**Assignment/Homework daily e-mail information**: To register to receive announcements and assignments via email:

1. Go to <http://www.princessannems.vbschools.com>.
2. Click on the Resources link (on the **LEFT** hand side of the website in grey).
3. Click on the MySchool MAIL link (located under Parent Resources).
4. Subscribe to the **Elements Core**.

**Course Description and Objectives:** Core and Advanced 6th grade science is an activity-based course in which the students participate in hands on activities. Experimental design and real world applications will be used to teach about the natural and technological world. Students will use inquiry skills and problem solving strategies to develop an understanding of science and technology. The course objectives correlate with the Virginia Standards of Learning.

**Course Scope and Sequence:**

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| **Core 6th Science**  \*Investigative Process Skills  \*Matter  \*Chemistry  \*Space  \*Weather  \*Water Properties  \*Energy  \*Virginia Watershed  **Online Textbook:** Science Explorer: Grade 6 by Prentice Hall  **Login:** Student ID#@vbstudents.com  **Password:** School Computer Password | **Advanced 6th Science**  \*Investigative Process Skills  \*Matter  \*Chemistry  \*Space  \*Energy  \*Light  \*Sound  \* Heat  \*Electricity and Magnetism  \*Force and Motion  **Online Textbook:** Science Explorer: Physical Science by Prentice Hall  **Login:** Student ID#@vbstudents.com  **Password:** SchoolComputer Password |

**Materials:** It is each student’s responsibility to come to class prepared each day with their binder, spiral notebook, composition book, pencils, highlighters, agenda, glue stick, and coloring supplies.

**Grading Procedures and Policies: 6th Grade Mastery Grading**

*Rationale:* Grades are NOT compensation. Grades are communication. They are an accurate report of what happened, a measurement of how far the student has mastered their skills. A mastery grading system does not factor in where a student begins in their learning; rather it evaluates a student’s progress throughout the unit offering multiple opportunities to obtain mastery.

*Procedure: S*tudent grades are based on standards for Grade 6 Advanced and Core Science objectives. Final grades are first and foremost determined by our professional opinion of your child’s work against those standards, not by mathematical calculations. We have been trained in analyzing student products against standards and finding evidence of that learning using a variety of methods. A student’s final grade will be determined at the end of each quarter by converting from the 4-point scale to the VBCPS Board approved grading scale. Please be sure to sign up for **Parental Portal** to view your child’s progress towards mastery.

*Assessment Measures:* Students will be evaluated using formative and summative assessments; which may include, but are not limited to, tests, quizzes, classwork, lab investigations, and performance tasks.

*Homework:* Homework will be assigned on an as needed basis for assessment review, project research, completion of classwork if more time is needed, and extra practice. Because mastery grading evaluates mastery of your child’s learning, homework will not be counted as a part of their overall progress for a grade. It does continue; however, to be an integral part of their role in their education, something for them to take ownership of.

**Grading Procedures and Policies:**

4 = Advanced Proficient – consistently demonstrates proficiency; grasps, applies, and extends key concepts, processes and skills.

3 = Proficient – regularly grasps and applies key concepts, processes, and skills with limited errors.

2 = Developing Proficiency – beginning to grasp and apply key concepts, processes, and skills

1 = Novice – needs improvement; not making expected progress toward proficiency

0 = No progress is evaluated.

\*Formative evaluations will take place multiple times during each class period and will not count as graded material but will serve as communication. There are too many various methods to list them all but to name a few: critical question/answer session with peers, experiments, projects, quizzes, and exit tickets. This will allow both the teacher and the student to determine where they are on the grading spectrum as the summative assessment draws near.

\*A summative evaluation will be given after every mini unit (typically three class sessions), to assess what has been covered during that time. These assessments will include multiple-choice, true and false, fill in the blank, as well as critical thinking application questions.

\*Students will receive at least one laboratory grade during the three-day increments, and often a cooperative group activity for additional application/understanding.

\* Absent/Make-up work is due the number of class meeting missed after returning to school. Accommodations may be made for extended absence. Advance notice for anticipated absences is appreciated. It is the student’s responsibility to gain makeup work from specified locations in each class. Parents may request work be delivered for pickup by calling Guidance, which will notify all teachers. *It is highly recommended that students pick up absence work immediately upon return rather than waiting until their class meets again. In a block schedule, 1 day’s absence is the equivalent of 2 days of instruction.*

*\**Reassessments and resubmission of assignments may be given after completing required review at the teacher’s discretion. These assignments must be completed **PRIOR** to the last week of the current quarter.

\*A safety contract is required to be signed by both parents and students in order to be able to participate in any type of lab activities. Students **must** wear goggles for **all** labs and these will be supplied in science class.

**Help Sessions:** I will be available for extra help by appointment only. Students must have a signature in their agenda from me, which will allow them to get into the building early in the morning. Homework centers are available in both AM and PM in the cafeteria. Please see the school’s website for more information on those sessions.

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**Home/School Communication:**

The best way to contact me is through email. My email address is: [Kimberly.piper@vbschools.com](mailto:Kimberly.piper@vbschools.com). Please allow 24 hours for a response.

Keeping the communication lines open between the parents and the teachers is vital to a student’s success. Below are ways I will be communicating with you:

* **Conferences** -. If you feel a conference is necessary, then contact the **guidance department**. Conferences will be from 8:40-9:00am in the guidance office. I encourage you to email me if you have any questions/concerns, since I have found that it is the easiest method of communication between teacher and parent.
* **Agenda/Planner** – The school will provide each student with a planner (agenda). The planner must be used every day to record homework, upcoming tests, etc. The planner is also used as the student’s hall pass. Please check your child’s planner often to keep up with classroom information. Occasionally, there may be a message from the teacher written in it and parents can write messages to the teacher as well. If the planner is lost or damaged, it must be replaced at the student’s cost.
* **Parent Portal** – is available for all parents through the website. This allows you to review your child’s progress. Grades will be updated in a reasonable amount of time after an assignment is given.

**Citizenship, Participation and Collaboration, and Productivity:**

As part of the push to incorporate 21st Century skills in education, your student will still be held responsible for their work habits, their ability to work cooperatively, and the effort and pride they place in final products through the standards based scale reported on both progress report and report card addendums.

**Citizenship Expectations:**

Students will:

* Bring necessary supplies to class each day
* Work cooperatively in large and small groups
* Use proper behavior by following the school and class rules
* Go directly to homeroom from their bus in the morning
* Let the teacher know where they are going at all times
* Use the agenda/planner correctly

Students experiencing difficulty meeting behavioral expectations will be disciplined according to the VBCPS Code of Conduct.